



Madezha Cepeda – Honoring & Including Those With Disabilities

Small Group Study Guide

This resource is designed to help your small group discussion. It's shaped to inspire you to consider new ways for understanding the mission of the church. Allow for a time of response.

Materials

1. Video: Madezha Cepeda, 20 minutes.
2. Theme: Honoring & including those with disabilities

Preliminary discussion

Consider the questions suggested below to start the conversation for your small group. They'll consolidate the content of the video, after you've viewed it.

1. What were the major themes in Madezha Cepeda's responses?
2. How does Cepeda describe the church's relationship to those those with disabilities?
3. Discuss the difficulties of the content. What was difficult to understand? Was there anything you would like to clarify with the group?
4. Theological method: How is Cepeda's theology informed and shaped by her practical ministry? What approaches does she take in understanding God in the context of her day-to-day experiences and discipling?

Explore and apply

Explore the major themes raised in the video. Critically engage with Madezha Cepeda's theology. Consider the questions that respond to the issues raised in your preliminary discussion. Apply the answers to these questions in your own setting. Ensure the discussion is specifically drawing on your local setting. Make sure the discussion is relevant to the lives of faith for your small group. Encourage relevant and thoughtful examples from each participant.

1. How does the Christian church exclude people with disabilities and other groups, both consciously and unconsciously?
2. How can Christians, and the church, better practice inclusion?
3. How can the church proactively seek to gain the contribution and enrichment of all people?
4. What key issues around gender, disability and inclusion should the church address today?
5. What experiences has Madezha Cepeda had being a woman with disability in the church and society?
6. How have these experiences changed her views on the role of church and faith?
7. What other social issues must the church address today?
8. What did you learn from listening to Madezha Cepeda?

Informing Community

Facilitate the space for your group to respond to the discussion. You might consider this section as a personal time of written journal responses to the following questions.

1. What is God encouraging me, our small group and our community, to do?
2. In response to the issues raised in the video, what are areas I want to ask God for forgiveness in? How do I need to change? What does God want me to stand up for?
3. How do I need God to minister to me and my community, for us to better engage with the contextual issues of our community?
4. How can I gain a better understanding of disabilities and inclusion? What do we ask that God would do in our hearts?

Prayer

Spend time in prayer over what you've learnt.

Invite the ministry of the Holy Spirit to clarify, heal, and inspire change for your participants and communities.

Links

Website: www.theglobalchurchproject.com

Book: Graham Hill, *GlobalChurch: Reshaping Our Conversations, Renewing Our Mission, Revitalizing Our Churches* (IVP Academic, 2016)